

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON,  
AT TACOMA

COUNTRY MUTUAL INSURANCE  
COMPANY, an Illinois corporation  
individually and as successor in interest to  
HOLYOKE MUTUAL INSURANCE  
COMPANY IN SALEM,

Plaintiff,

vs.

EVERGREEN LANDING, LLC

Defendant.

Cause No. 3:20-cv-05337 RJB-TLF

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

COME NOW the parties, by and through their counsel of record, and submit this Joint  
Status Report and Discovery Plan.

**1. Statement of Case**

Plaintiff asserts claims for declaratory judgment that there is no coverage under a  
policy of insurance issued to the defendant for claims made in the underlying action, *Tiffany  
Casto and Ryan Jacobs v. Evergreen Landing, LLC*, Superior Court of Washington for  
Thurston County Cause No. 19-2-04188-34 (“the Liability Action”). The Liability Action is  
set for trial March 15, 2020 but is expected to be continued due to COVID-19 delays. Plaintiff

1 is defending Defendant under reservation of rights in the Liability Action. It is Plaintiff's  
 2 position that the claims in the Liability Action arise out of allegations of bodily injury, damage  
 3 to personal property and constructive eviction, if any, that were caused by the inhalation of, or  
 4 exposure, to mold, which is excluded from coverage under the Policy issued to Evergreen by  
 5 Country Mutual. Accordingly, Country Mutual seeks declaratory judgment it has no duty to  
 6 defend or indemnify Evergreen against the claims made in the Liability Action.

7 The Defendant has filed counterclaims for declaratory judgment and breach of  
 8 contract. The defendant seeks a ruling that the Plaintiff has a duty to defend the claims in the  
 9 Liability Action under the Policy issued by Country Mutual to Evergreen and that Plaintiff has  
 10 further breached the insurance contract by denying a duty to indemnify. Defendant seeks fees  
 11 and costs under *Olympic Steamship*.

12 2. Additional parties to this lawsuit shall be joined no later than September 18,  
 13 2020.

14 3. **Proposed Discovery Plan**

15 The parties' counsel conducted a Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(f) conference on June 29, 2020. The  
 16 parties propose the following discovery plan:

17 (A) The parties' Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a) initial disclosures will be exchanged by  
 18 July 6, 2020;

19 (B) It is Country Mutual's position that the Court can decide the coverage  
 20 issues on summary judgment without the need for discovery. However, if the  
 21 Court were to find that an issue of fact precluded summary judgment, then  
 22 Country Mutual would likely seek discovery related to the facts and allegations  
 23 in the Liability Action. Evergreen proposes a stay of discovery until the

Liability Action is concluded. The parties agree that discovery need not be phased, limited, and/or focused on particular issues;

(C) The parties suggest no changes to the limitations on discovery imposed under the Federal and Local Civil Rules regarding electronically stored information;

(D) Given the claims currently asserted in this action, the parties do not currently anticipate any issues related to privilege;

(E) The parties suggest no changes to the limitations on discovery imposed under the Federal and Local Civil Rules; and

(F) At this time the parties have no suggestions for any other orders.

4. **Statement Regarding Local Rule 26 (f)(1)**

(A) **Prompt Case Resolution.** Plaintiff has filed a Motion for Summary Judgment on its duty to defend and indemnify, noted for July 11, 2020. Defendant plans on filing a cross-motion for Partial Summary Judgment on the duty to defend. Another issue Defendant has raised is whether the Plaintiffs in the Liability Action will join as Interested Parties.

(B) **Alternative Dispute Resolution.** The parties believe that private mediation likely will be the appropriate form of ADR under Fed.R.Civ.P. 39.1. The parties further believe that mediation should occur, and will make efforts towards accomplishing a mediation, by the close of discovery.

(C) **Related Cases.** *Tiffany Casto and Ryan Jacobs v. Evergreen Landing, LLC*, Superior Court of Washington for Thurston County Cause No. 19-2-04188-34, as discussed in Section One above.

1           **(D) Discovery Management.**           The parties do not anticipate needing  
2 additional management outside the federal and local rules.

3           **(E) Anticipated Discovery Sought.**           The parties do not anticipate  
4 needing discovery in excess of that allowed by the federal and local rules.

5           **(F) Phasing Motions.**           At this time, Country Mutual does not anticipate  
6 the need for phasing. Evergreen believes, after the cross-motions for summary  
7 judgement, the should be stayed until the Liability Action is concluded.

8           **(G) Preservation of Discoverable Information.**           The Parties have  
9 complied with the federal and local rules.

10           **(H) Privilege Issues.**           At this point in time, the parties do not anticipate  
11 issues related to privilege given the current claims.

12           **(I) Model Protocol for Discovery of ESI.**           The parties agree the model  
13 protocol should be sufficient.

14           **(J) Alternatives to Model Protocol.** The parties suggest no alternatives.

15           **5.**           In the absence of a stay, the parties believe that all remaining discovery can be  
16 completed by May 14, 2021.

17           **6.**           Plaintiff reserves the right to request bifurcation of claims.

18           **7.**           The parties do not believe that pretrial statements and the pretrial order should  
19 be dispensed with.

20           **8.**           The parties believe at some point prior to the discovery cutoff date, mediation  
21 would be appropriate in conformance with Local Rule 39.1. At this time, the parties do not  
22 believe this case is appropriate for the Individualized Trial Program under Local Rule 39.2.

23           **9.**           The parties have no specific suggestions for shortening or simplifying the case.

1           **10.**     In the absence of a stay, the parties believe this case will be ready for trial by  
2 August 16, 2021, approximately 120 days after the close of discovery, under Local Rule 16.

3           **11.**     ECF 5 omitted a paragraph 11.

4           **12.**     Neither party has demanded a jury yet.

5           **13.**     The parties estimate this case will require three to four (3 to 4) trial days.

6           **14.**     The name, address and telephone number of counsel for plaintiff are:

7                   Misty Edmundson  
8                   Cristin Cavanaugh  
9                   Soha & Lang, PS  
10                  1325 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 2000  
11                  Seattle, WA 98101  
12                  (206) 624-1800

13           The name, address and telephone number of counsel for the defendant are:

14                   Linda Foreman  
15                   Foreman Sturm & Thede, LLP  
16                   5825 60th St. SE  
17                   Snohomish, WA 98290  
18                   (425) 377-1100

19           **15.**     At this time, trial counsel have no known complications for setting a trial date in  
20 August/ September 2021.

21           **16.**     All parties have been served with the Summons and Complaint.

22           **17.**     The parties do not request a scheduling conference before the scheduling order  
23 being entered.

**18.**     All non-government corporate parties have filed disclosure statements. See ECF  
2 filed on April 10, 2020 and ECF 13 filed on June 22, 2020.

1 DATED this 6th day of July, 2020.

2 SOHA & LANG, P.S.

3 By: /s/Misty Edmundson

4 Misty Edmundson, WSBA # 29606

5 Email address [edmundson@sohalang.com](mailto:edmundson@sohalang.com)

6 Cristin A. Cavanaugh, WSBA # 53251

7 Email address [cavanaugh@sohalang.com](mailto:cavanaugh@sohalang.com)

8 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000

9 Seattle, WA 98101-2570

10 Telephone: 206-624-1800

11 Facsimile: 206-624-3585

12 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Country Mutual Insurance*  
13 *Company, an Illinois corporation individually and as*  
14 *successor in interest to Holyoke Mutual Insurance*  
15 *Company in Salem*

16 FOREMAN STURM & THEDE LLP

17 Linda L. Foreman

18 Linda L. Foreman, WSBA #11817

19 Attorney for Defendant

20 Evergreen Landing, LLC